

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #23

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLANNING

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program is a new program created by the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000* for those communities that wish to receive monetary assistance prior to a disaster to fund mitigation projects. Effective November 1, 2003, any community that wishes to be eligible for PDM funds must have an approved Mitigation Plan.

For the Local Mitigation Plan to be approved, it must meet the following minimum criteria:

- There must be open public involvement in the **planning process**; the process must include neighboring communities, local and regional agencies, business, academia (if available), and other private and non-profit interests; the process must include review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information; and, documentation of the process must include the process used to develop the plan, who was involved and how the public was involved.
- A **risk assessment** must be included that identifies the type, location and extent of all natural hazards affecting the community; a history of past events and a probability of future events for each hazard; an assessment of the type and number of existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities located in a hazard area; an estimate of dollar losses from each hazard; and, an analysis of land uses and development trends.
- A **mitigation strategy** must be included that states the mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities from the identified hazards; that identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects to reduce the affect of hazards on new and existing buildings; and, an action plan including how the actions be prioritized, implemented and administered including a cost benefit review of the projects.

- A **plan maintenance procedure** must be included, which includes a description of how the plan will be monitored, evaluated and updated; a description of how the plan will be implemented through existing programs; and, how the public will continue to be involved in the plan maintenance process.
- The local governing body must **adopt** the plan.

For communities that opt to participate in a multi-jurisdictional planning process, the following prerequisites must also be met:

- The governing body of all jurisdictions requesting approval of the plan must **adopt** it.
- Each jurisdiction that requests approval of the plan must **participate in the planning process**.
- The **risks of one jurisdiction that vary** from those facing the entire planning area must be assessed.
- The mitigation strategy must **identify action items for each jurisdiction** requesting approval or credit for the plan.

For additional information on the planning process contact the FEMA Publication Warehouse at 1-800-480-2520 to order copies the FMEA Mitigation Planning How-To Guide Series (FEMA 386). You can also obtain copies of the Series on the Web by going to : <http://www.fema.gov/fima/planresource.shtm>.